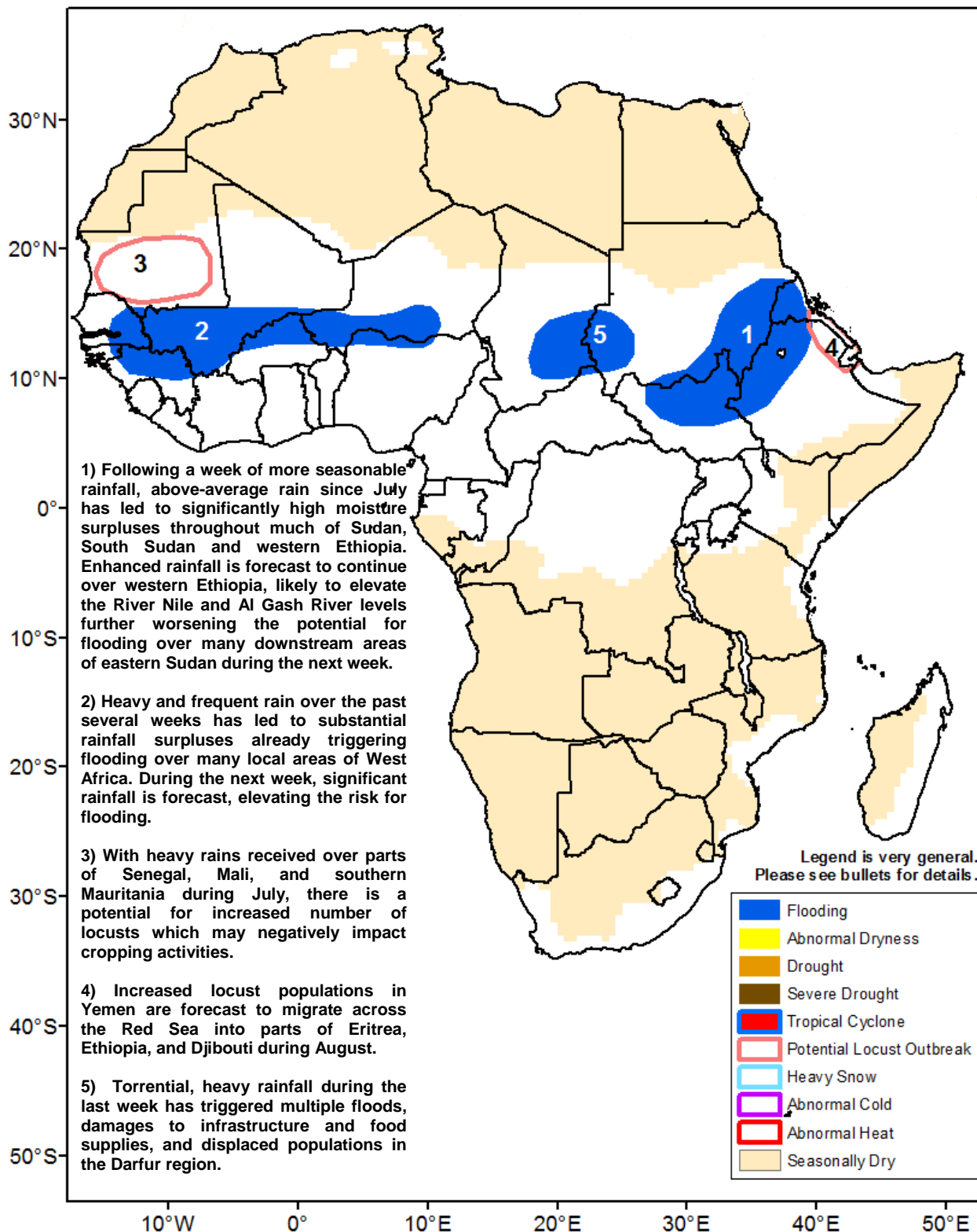




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 11 – August 17, 2016

- Flooding continues to remain a threat over eastern Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.
- Heavy rainfall forecast across the western portion of the Sahel during the next week.



Lesser, more seasonable rains received in early August.

Despite another excessively wet forecast last week, a more seasonable distribution of rainfall was observed across much of West Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, moderate to high weekly rainfall accumulations (>50mm) were received the lower Sahel zone and northern Gulf of Guinea countries, with isolated pockets of heavier rains (>100mm) received over parts of western Guinea and southern Mali (Figure 1). The northern extent of monsoon rains was seen over southern Mauritania and central Mali, indicating a slight retreat in the ITCZ/ITF position during the last week. Further south, little to no rainfall accumulations were received over southern Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, as seasonal rainfall continues to enter its dryer phase during this time of the year.

Following a significantly wet July, much of the seasonal rainfall in West Africa is now on pace to be average to above-average before the end of September. An experimental probability analysis (SPP) which factors in both the performance of seasonal rainfall to date, and the 30+year history of seasonal rainfall variability for the remainder of the season indicates high likelihoods (>75%) that rainfall totals will finish in the average category (80 to 120 percent of normal) over many areas in the Sahel. High probabilities (>85%) for rainfall to be above-average category (>120 of normal) are already observed over more arid regions in southern Mauritania, central Mali and eastern Niger (Figure 2). While frequent and abundant rains in July have been favorable for ongoing cropping activities, excess rains and ground moisture has sustained the risk for flooding over much of the region heading into August.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models indicate seasonable totals with the potential for significantly heavy rains over portions of southern Mali, northern Burkina Faso, and southern Niger. This is expected to sustain the risk for flooding as high river levels and saturated ground conditions have been observed throughout the region.

Enhanced rains expected over western Ethiopia.

During the last week, a much welcomed decrease in rainfall was observed over many saturated areas in East Africa. However, many areas in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia are still experiencing nearly 150 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation since early July. This wet pattern has left many areas vulnerable for additional flooding during the next several weeks. For next week, the probability for above-average precipitation (>150% of normal) is quite high in the outlook over western Ethiopia (Figure 3). Additionally heavy rainfall in this region, may not only trigger flash flooding and damages to infrastructure, but also sustain the risk for downstream flooding along the Nile and Al Gash Rivers. To the south, locally moderate to heavy rain is also expected over northern South Sudan.

**Note:** The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

